



April 17, 2007

H.R. 309 - To direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a demonstration program to facilitate landscape restoration programs within certain units of the National Park System established by law to preserve and interpret resources associated with American history, and for other purposes.

Floor Situation

H.R. 309 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Stevan Pearce (R-NV) on January 5, 2007. The bill was ordered to be reported from the Committee on Natural Resources, by voice vote, on March 7, 2007.

H.R. 309 is expected to be considered on the floor on April 17, 2007.

**Note: During the 109th Congress, Rep. Stevan Pearce (R-AZ) introduced identical legislation, (H.R. 5411), which was reported out of the Committee on Resources by unanimous consent on June 21, 2006 but was never considered in the House of Representatives.*

Summary

H.R. 309 would establish a four year demonstration program involving 24 National Battlefields, Battlefield Parks, Military Parks and Battlefield Sites allowing the parks to retain proceeds from timber cleared in order to keep the area as historically accurate as possible.

The Secretary of the Interior must report back to Congress two years after the enactment of this bill with a detailed account of receipts generated, the expenditure of each unit, and any other resources or impacts to the units.

The authority of the Secretary will sunset four years after the enactment of this act.

Background

The National Park Service (NPS) maintains over 130 units of land designated as National Battlefields, National Battlefields Parks and Sites, National Military Parks, and National Historical Parks and Sites. Congress has directed the NPS to maintain these sites as they appeared during a specific battle or historic moment in America's history. In order to preserve the sites timber and flora must be removed. Currently the timber removed is

sold and the profits go to the general Treasury. The removal of timber is authorized by the Secretary of Interior.

The total receipts for FY00-FY05 totaled \$59,161. H.R. 309 would allow parks to use the funds from the sale of timber to restore the area in which it was removed. The bill establishes a four year demonstration plan with 24 National Parks, Battle sites, etc. The Secretary of Interior must report back to the Committee on Resources establishing a timeline for landscape restoration work in all of the 24 units.

CBO estimates H.R. 309 would increase direct spending by negligible amounts over the 2008-2012 period, spending less than \$20,000 annually over the period.

Staff Contact

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